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Attorney General Biden Announces National Agreement to Protect Children from Predators

Wilmington, DE – Attorney General Beau Biden today announced that an agreement among U.S. cable providers, attorneys general nationwide, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children will target child pornographers and provide additional protections to children from predators.

“In the fight to keep kids safe from predators, industry must do its part,” stated Attorney General Joseph R. Biden, III. “By taking active steps to limit the distribution of child pornography and reporting offenders to law enforcement, the entire cable industry is taking a significant step in the right direction.”

Today’s agreement was reached among the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA), the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), and the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG). Attorney General Biden joined more than 40 of the nation’s Attorneys General in formally supporting today’s agreement.

Nationally, the cable industry brings internet service to 112 million homes, representing 87 percent of U.S. households. Through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NCMEC, all cable operators represented on the NCTA Board of Directors will help reduce the proliferation of child pornography by:

- Using NCMEC's database of websites identified as containing child pornography to ensure that no such site is hosted on servers owned or controlled by those companies
- Reporting websites containing child pornography to NCMEC's CyberTipline
- Revising their policies around other potential sources of child pornography, such as web-based newsgroups.

All cable internet service providers currently forbid the hosting of child pornography on their servers. Through the MOU, NCMEC will provide service providers with additional sources of information to help them enforce their terms of service, including help in identifying instances of child pornography and facilitating their reporting of such material to NCMEC as required by federal law. NCMEC, in turn, refers these cases to law enforcement, including the Delaware Child Predator Task Force, for investigation and prosecution.

The cable operators that have agreed to execute the MOU within 30 days include: Comcast Corporation; Time Warner Cable; Cox Communications; Charter Communications; Cablevision System Corporation; Bright House Networks; Suddenlink Communications; Mediacom Communications Corp; Insight Communications; Bresnan Communications; Midcontinent Communications; Broadstripe; US Cable Corporation; BendBroadband; Eagle Communications; GCI; Sjoberg's Inc.; and Harron.

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